

THE MONTHLY RECORD

OF THE

Church of Scotland

IN

NOVA SCOTIA, NEW BRUNSWICK, & ADJOINING PROVINCES.

VOL. XVII.

NOVEMBER, 1871.

No. 11.

"I FORGET THEE, O JERUSALEM! LET MY RIGHT HAND FORGET ITS CUNNING."—Ps. 137: 5.

SERMON, BY THE LATE REV. DR. DONALD.

[The late minister of St. Andrew's Church, St. John, N. B., was so well known, during his long pastorate, as an earnest and powerful preacher of the Gospel, that we are sure many of his old flock and friends elsewhere will rejoice to read the following—taken almost at random from his written discourses. As some of those who heard the living voice read those pages, and hear him, "while dead, yet speaking," their hearts must burn within them. Should they desire some other remains of their beloved pastor, we shall gladly publish, in next year's *Record*, in monthly order, one or two series of his shorter discourses and addresses that he gave in courses.]

PRISONERS OF HOPE.

ZECH. IX. 12: "Turn you to the strong hold, ye prisoners of hope."

This chapter contains an interesting prophecy, combining the promise of temporal and spiritual blessings. It foretells the judgments which were coming upon the enemies of Israel. It also looks forward to the dispensation of the gospel, anticipates the spiritual reign of Messiah, and that heavenly protection

and refuge and support which would be granted to His people.

The gentleness and lowliness of Messiah's character we find described at the 9th verse, "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem; behold, thy King cometh unto thee; he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass." The peaceful nature, and the wide extension of this dominion, are next described: "And I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim, and the horse from Jerusalem, and the battle-bow shall be cut off; and he shall speak peace unto the heathen; and his dominion shall be from sea to sea, and from the river even to the ends of the earth." The deliverance which he should grant to mankind from the thralldom and dominion of sin follows: "As for thee also, by the blood of thy covenant I have sent forth the prisoners out of the pit wherein is no water." And then comes the exhortation of the text, evidently alluding to the same subject, and forming a part of the same spiritual and evangelical address. The prophet turns to captive Israel, and in turn to the whole race of man, who are to owe their redemption to the same Saviour, the same Messiah, and cries, "Turn you to the stronghold, ye prisoners of hope." Such is the language which every minister of the gospel is called upon to address